

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The claims in this listing replace all previous listings, and versions, of claims in this application.

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A jet dispersing device, comprising:

a high pressure region having a flow inlet;

a low pressure region having a flow outlet;

a partition wall positioned within the high pressure region such that the high pressure region is partitioned from the low pressure region, wherein the partition wall has at least one nozzle hole configured to jet a liquid from the high pressure region to the low pressure region such that the liquid is dispersed as fine particles, and wherein the partition wall has a cleaning fluid communication port having an opening area which is larger than an opening area of the at least one nozzle hole; and

a valve mechanism configured to open and close the cleaning fluid communication port.

10. (New) The jet dispersing device according to claim 9, wherein the partition wall comprises a tubular member extending within the high pressure region and the at least

one nozzle hole is provided on the tubular member of the partition wall, wherein an end of the partition wall is provided with the cleaning fluid communication port, and wherein the valve mechanism comprises a valve body which opens and closes the cleaning fluid communication port.

11. (New) The jet dispersing device according to claim 10, wherein the valve body comprises a rod which is configured to be inserted within and withdrawn from an inside of the tubular member thereby closing and opening the cleaning fluid communication port, respectively.

12 (New) The jet dispersing device according to claim 11, wherein a clearance, defined by a spacing between the valve body and the tubular member, is in a range of $0\mu\text{m}$ to $50\mu\text{m}$.

13. (New) The jet dispersing device according to claim 12, further comprising a valve seat provided within the tubular member, wherein the valve body is configured to engage the valve seat such that the at least one nozzle hole is closed.

14. (New) The jet dispersing device according to claim 11, wherein a clearance, defined by a spacing between the valve body and the tubular member, is from $0\mu\text{m}$ to $15\mu\text{m}$.

15. (New) The jet dispersing device according to claim 14, further comprising a valve seat provided within the tubular member, wherein the valve body is configured to engage the valve seat such that the at least one nozzle hole is closed.

16. (New) The jet dispersing device according to claim 11, further comprising a valve seat provided within the tubular member, wherein the valve body is configured to engage the valve seat such that the at least one nozzle hole is closed.

17. (New) The jet dispersing device according to claim 9, wherein the partition wall comprises a tubular member extending within the high pressure region, wherein an end of the partition wall is provided with the cleaning fluid communication port, the valve mechanism comprises a valve body which opens and closes the cleaning fluid communication port, and a gap defined by a spacing between the valve body and the tubular member forms one of the at least one nozzle hole.

18. (New) The jet dispersing device according to claim 17, further comprising a valve seat provided within the tubular member, wherein the valve body is configured to engage the valve seat such that the at least one nozzle hole is closed.